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ABSTRACT

On January 17, 1994, the Northridge earthquake caused major damage to the freeways leading into California's Santa Clarita Valley. For most of the spring semester, travel to and from the valley was difficult and time-consuming. To determine the effect of the earthquake on enrollment, College of the Canyons, in the Santa Clarita Valley, undertook a study to compare frequencies of the zip codes of students' home residence for those enrolled in spring 1993, the year before the earthquake, to those in spring 1994. End-of-term data was examined for both semesters, counting only students who continued their enrollment through the first census. An 11% drop in enrollment was found from spring 1993 to spring 1994, falling from 6,577 to 5,853. For students residing within the college's district, there was an overall decline of 12.5%, ranging from a high of 15.4% for the city of Valencia to a low of 9.9% for Saugus. For students residing outside of the district, enrollment decreased overall by 84 students from spring 1993 to spring 1994, representing a 5.8% decrease. When examining out-of-district enrollment by area, the greatest number decreases were found for the east and west sections of the San Fernando Valley and for students from out of the local area. Student enrollment from northeast of the college, however, actually increased by 47 students or 28%. Data tables are included. (KP)

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College of the Canyons
SANTA CLARITA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Pre - and Post-Earthquake Enrollment by Geographic Area

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Office of Institutional Development

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PRE- AND POST-EARTHQUAKE ENROLLMENT BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

On January 17, 1994 the Northridge earthquake caused major damage to the freeways leading into the Santa Clarita Valley. For most of the spring semester, travel to and from the valley was difficult and often time consuming. Was there a change in enrollment at College of the Canyons as a result? Did fewer students enroll? Did fewer students from the San Fernando Valley enroll?

We asked the Computer Center to run frequencies of the zip codes of the home residence of students who enrolled in Spring 1993, the year before the earthquake, and in Spring 1994, the semester of the quake. We looked at End-of-Term data for both semesters, counting only students who continued their enrollment through First Census. Students who enrolled but dropped all courses prior to First Census were not counted.

We found an 11.0 percent drop in enrollment from Spring 1993 to Spring 1994, with over 700 fewer students enrolled the semester of the earthquake. Enrollment for Spring 1993 was 6,577, while Spring 1994 enrollment was 5,853.

WITHIN DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

To classify students by area, we first looked at enrollment from each of the zipcode areas within the Santa Clarita Community College District.

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT
BY ZIPCODE OF RESIDENCE

	Spring 1993		Spring 1994		Percent Change
Valencia					
91354	148		191		
91355	1106		864		
91385	7		10		
91380	34		31		
		1295		1096	-15.4%
Canyon Country					
91351	1478		1283		
91386	11		12		
		1489		1295	-13.0%
Castaic					
91310	17		7		
91384	291		265		
		308		272	-11.7%
Newhall					
91321	736		654		
91322	21		13		
91381	78		78		
		835		745	-10.8%
Saugus					
91350	1188		1070		
		1188		1070	- 9.9%
TOTAL		**5,115**		**4,478**	**-12.5%**

Overall, there was a 12.5 percent decline in enrollment from within the District from Spring 1993 to Spring 1994. Six hundred thirty-seven (637) fewer students who resided in the Santa Clarita Community College District enrolled in Spring 1994 than in Spring 1993. When looking at enrollment by area within the District, the decreases ranged from a high of 15.4 percent for Valencia to a low of 9.9 percent for Saugus.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

Next, we arbitrarily cut the Los Angeles map into four quadrants, using College of the Canyons as the center. We excluded District enrollment and then classified students into one of five geographic areas:

San Fernando Valley West - Agoura Hills, Canoga Park, West Hills, Chatsworth, Newbury Park, Thousand Oaks, Woodland Hills and Simi Valley

San Fernando Valley East - Sylmar, San Fernando, Granada Hills, Pacoima, Tujunga, La Crescenta, Sun Valley, Panorama City, Burbank, Glendale, La Canada, Pasadena, North Hollywood, etc.

Northeast - Lancaster, Acton, Lake Hughes, Palmdale, California City, Littlerock, Quartz Hill, Pearblossom, Rosamund and Tehachapi

Northwest - Filmore, Oxnard, Ventura, Piru, Port Hueneme, Frazier Park, Lebec, Bakersfield and Pine Mountain Club

Out of Area - i.e. Fresno, Eureka etc.

The resulting table follows:

OUT-OF-DISTRICT ENROLLMENT BY REGION

	Spring 1993	Spring 1994	Percent Change
San Fernando Valley West	100	87	- 13.0%
San Fernando Valley East	1107	1005	- 9.2%
Northeast	168	215	+ 28.0%
Northwest	72	61	- 15.3%
Out-of-Area	12	7	- 41.7%
TOTAL	**1,459**	**1,375**	**- 5.8%**

Overall, 84 fewer students enrolled from outside the District in the semester of the earthquake than in the previous spring semester. The greatest decrease in actual number of students was evident in the San Fernando Valley East quadrant where there was a decrease of 102 students, or a 9.2 percent decrease over Spring 1993 enrollment. With the collapse of the freeway bridge on Interstate 5 and resulting traffic re-routing, it is surprising that enrollment from both San Fernando Valley quadrants only declined by 115 students. The only quadrant showing an increase in enrollment was the Northeast quadrant, where there was a 47 student, or 28.0%, increase in enrollment.

OVERVIEW

The following table presents an overview of the enrollment changes from Spring 1993 to Spring 1994 by geographic area.

ENROLLMENT CHANGES BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA
SPRING 1993 TO SPRING 1994

Geographic Area	Spring 1993	Spring 1994	Percent Change
District - Canyon Country	1489	1295	- 13.0%
District - Valencia	1295	1096	- 15.4
District - Saugus	1188	1070	- 9.9
San Fernando Valley - East	1107	1005	- 9.2%
District - Newhall	835	745	- 10.8
District - Castaic	308	272	- 11.7
Northeast	168	215	+ 28.0%
San Fernando Valley - West	100	87	- 13.0
Northwest	72	61	- 15.3
Out-of-Area	12	7	- 41.7
TOTAL	**6,574**	**5,853**	**- 11.0%**

PROPORTION OF STUDENT BODY FROM EACH AREA

Did these changes mean a shift in the proportion of students from each of the geographic areas? We again looked at Spring 1993 and Spring 1994 enrollments and calculated the percentage of the enrollment from each geographic area.

PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLMENT FROM EACH GEOGRAPHIC AREA

	Spring 1993		Spring 1994		
	N	%	N	%	Diff.
District - Canyon Country	1489	22.6%	1295	22.1%	- 0.5
District - Valencia	1295	19.7%	1096	18.7%	- 1.0
District - Saugus	1188	18.1%	1070	18.3%	+ 0.2
San Fernando Valley - East	1107	16.8%	1005	17.2%	+ 0.4
District - Newhall	835	12.7%	745	12.7%	0.0
District - Castaic	308	4.7%	272	4.7%	0.0
Northeast	168	2.6%	215	3.7%	+1.1
San Fernando Valley - West	100	1.5%	87	1.5%	0.0
Northwest	72	1.1%	61	1.0%	- 0.1
Out-of-Area	12	0.2%	7	0.1%	- 0.1
TOTAL	**6574**	**100.0%**	**5853**	**100.0%**	

Interestingly, there was no change from one spring semester to the next in the order in which geographic areas fell in a list in which the largest enrollment area was listed first and the smallest area listed last. Student enrollment from Canyon Country topped the list each year, followed by Valencia and Saugus.

There was little difference from spring to spring in the proportion of students from each geographic area. The greatest difference was the Northeast quadrant where the enrollment increase caused the percentage to move up to 3.7 percent in Spring 1994, a 1.1 percent increase over the previous spring semester. The second change was that enrollment from Valencia decreased from 19.7 to 18.7 percent of the total enrollment, a 1.0 percent drop. This enrollment decrease may have less to do with transportation difficulties, but more to do with earthquake damage to the homes of students.

District enrollment declined as a percent of total enrollment in Spring 1994. While 77.8 percent of all the students enrolled in Spring 1993 resided within the District, the percentage decreased to 76.5 percent in Spring 1994.

A FINAL NOTE

Enrollment decreased by a total of 724 students from Spring 1993 to Spring 1994, an 11.0 percent decline. Enrollment from within the District decreased by 12.5 percent, while enrollment from outside the District decreased by 5.8 percent.

With one exception, enrollment showed a decrease from each of the ten geographic areas. The only area from which enrollment increased was the Northeast quadrant - the Lancaster/Palmdale area.

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